

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 290902Z JAN 74 ZDK
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9381
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1020

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJECT: THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN TURNS ON THE SOVIETS

REF: HONG KONG A-307, NOV. 23, 1973

SUMMARY: RED FLAG AND PEOPLE'S DAILY HAVE HEIGHTENED THE FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS DEBATE BY TYING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR CONFUCIUS TO PURPORTED SOVIET PLANS TO TURN CHINA INTO A COLONY. THE TIMING OF THESE ARTICLES SUGGEST THAT INTERNAL PRESSURES TO TAKE A HARSHER LINE AGAINST THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE PRC HANDLING OF THE EXPULSION OF THE SOVIET DIPLOMATS. END SUMMARY.

1. RED FLAG NO. 1 (JAN. 1, 1974) CARRIED THE SOVIET ANGLE IN THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS DEBATES REPORTED REFAIRGRAM A STEP FORWARD
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BY ARGUING THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PROMOTING CONFUCIANISM AS A VEHICLE

FOR AGRESSION AGAINST CHINA. IN THE PAST, ACCORDING TO RED FLAG, TSARIST RUSSIAN, BRITISH, AMERICAN AND JAPANESE IMPERIALISTS HAD SUPPORTED CONFUCIANISM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INTERNAL TRAITORS YUAN SHIH-KAI (CHINESE REPUBLIC PRESIDENT WHO TRIED TO BECOME EMPEROR IN 1916), CHIANG KAI-SHEK AND WANG CHING-WEI (JAPANESE COLLABORATOR DURING WORLD WAR II) IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT A CO-ORDINATED ATTACK FROM WITHOUT AND WITHIN AGAINST THE CHINESE PEOPLE. IN RECENT YEARS, THE SOVIETS ARE SAID TO HAVE TRUMPETED CONFUCIANISM IN CO-ORDINATION WITH LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN PIAO'S GLORIFICATION OF THE SAGE WITHIN CHINA IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE SAME GOAL.

2. PEOPLE'S DAILY ON JAN. 24 (NCNA, JAN. 27) ELABORATED ON THIS THEME BY EXPLICITLY STATING THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS SUPPORTING CONFUCIANISM IN ORDER TO TURN CHINA INTO A SOVIET COLONY. THE ARTICLE--REPUTEDLY WRITTEN BY THE PEKING AND TSINGHUA UNIVERSITIES MASS CRITICISM GROUPS--ALSO ADDED THE NEW WRINKLE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE PROMOTING CONFUCIUS IN ORDER TO COVER THEIR OWN "FASCIST DICTATORSHIP" AND IT PANNED SOVIET IDEOLOGY AS A "STRANGE MIXTURE OF WHIMSICAL IDEAS" INCLUDING AMONG OTHER THINGS "THE DECADENT DOCTRINE OF CONFUCIUS AND MENCIOUS AND 'WESTERN CULTURE' WHICH IS NOW MUCH IN VOGUE." THE ARTICLE PRESCRIBED THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND THE MASS STRUGGLE TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS AS ANTIDOTES FOR THE SOVIET PLANS, NOTING THAT "THE MORE DEEPLY THIS REVOLUTION DEVELOPS AND THE GREATER SUCCESSES IT GAINS, THE SMALLER ARE THE CHANCES OF THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS TO RESTORE CAPITALISM IN CHINA." THE PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH THE ASSERTION THAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE WOULD OVERTHROW THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP.

3. COMMENT: THE HYDRA-HEADED ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN HAS NOW CLEARLY INTRUDED INTO FOREIGN RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS SINGLED OUT AS THE TARGET. THE RED FLAG ARTICLE DOWNPLAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT SUCCEED IN TURNING CHINA INTO A COLONY, BUT THE PEOPLE'S DAILY PIECE--WHICH APPEARED AT THE TIME OF THE FUROR OVER EXPULSION OF THE SOVIET DIPLOMATS--TAKES A SOMEWHAT MORE ALARMIST APPROACH. THE TIMING OF THIS ENTANGLEMENT OF THE SOVIETS IN THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN ALONG WITH SHANGHAI'S PROMINENCE IN REPLAYING REPORTS OF THE EXPULSION OF THE SOVIET DIPLOMATS (FBIS 250610) APPEARS TO STRENGTHEN THE CASE THAT INTERNAL POLITICS WERE INVOLVED IN PEKING'S HANDLING OF THAT INCIDENT (HONG KONG 881).

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